AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

No claims are being amended by this amendment.

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1. (Previously presented) A portable memory device for a USB-supporting data processing system, the memory device comprising:

a USB connector for being connected to a USB port of the data processing system;

an integrated circuit memory for writing/reading data;

a connector cover protecting the USB connector from damage, the connector cover capable of sliding automatically backwards upon insertion of the portable memory device into said USB port exposing the USB connector; and

a USB interface coupled between the USB connector and the memory, for interfacing the memory with the data processing system.

2. (Original) The memory device of claim 1, wherein the memory is a nonvolatile semiconductor memory.

3.(Canceled)

4.(Original) The memory device of claim 1, wherein the memory device is worked as a portable memory device of the data processing system.

5.(Original) The memory device of claim 1, wherein the memory device supports a plug and play function, and the USB connector is capable of being connected and separated to/from the USB port of the data processing system while the data processing system is powered on.

6.(Original) The memory device of claim 1, wherein the memory device stores a security information.

7.(Original) The memory device of claim 6, wherein the data processing system stores a security information to verify an authorized user.

8.(Original) The memory device of claim 7, wherein the data processing system starts to work when the security information of the memory device is matched with the security information of the data processing system.

9-15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) A method for securing data on a hard disk of a host computer, comprising the steps of:

applying power to said host computer;

determining if a universal serial bus (USB) device is connected to said host computer;

comparing security information in said host computer with security information in said USB

device; and

enabling a hard disk drive of said host computer if said security information in said USB device matches said security information in said host computer.

17.(Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of performing a power on self test when power is applied to said host computer.

18.(Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of booting said host computer by an operating system after enabling said hard disk drive.

19.(Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of displaying an error message if said USB device is not connected to said host computer.

20.(Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of displaying an error message if said security information in said host computer does not match said security information in said USB device.

21. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein backwards is a direction that is opposite to a direction of insertion of said memory device into said USB port.

22. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, further comprising a spring coupled

between said connector cover and a housing of the device, said spring being biased to push said cover away from said housing to cover said integrated circuit memory when no pressure is applied to said spring.

23.(Previously presented) The device of claim 22, said spring being compressed upon attachment of said portable memory device to said USB port.

24.(Previously presented) The device of claim 1, said cover having a ridge protruding from a side portion of said cover that engages a concave groove in said housing enabling said cover to slide forwards and backwards with respect to said housing.

25.(Previously presented) A method for securing a host computer, comprising the steps of:

applying power to the host computer;

determining whether a USB security device is attached to a USB port on the host;

displaying an error message when it is determined that the USB security device is not attached to the USB port of the host;

reading a password from the USB security device and comparing the read password with a password stored in the host;

displaying an error message when the password on the USB security device does not match the password stored in the host and preventing the host from being booted when the password on the USB security device does not match the password stored in the host; and

booting up the host computer only when the USB security device is attached to the USB port of the host and only when the password stored in the USB security device matches the password stored in the host computer.

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26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of enabling a hard disk drive in the host only when the USB security device is attached to the USB port of the host and only when the password stored in the USB security device matches the password stored in the host computer.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, said booting step comprising loading an operating system in the host.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, said reading and comparing step being performed prior to when the host computer is booted up.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of attaching the USB security device to the USB port of the host computer prior to when power is applied to the host.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, said attaching step comprising automatically sliding a cover on said USB security device backward in a direction opposite to a

direction of inserting the USB security device into the USB port when the USB security device is attached to the USB port of the host computer.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, the USB security device comprising:

a USB connector for being connected to the USB port of the host computer;

an integrated circuit memory for writing/reading data;

a connector cover protecting the USB connector from damage, the connector cover capable of sliding automatically backwards upon insertion of the portable memory device into said USB port exposing the USB connector; and

a USB interface coupled between the USB connector and the memory, for interfacing the memory with the data processing system.

32. (Previously presented) The portable memory device of claim 1, the portable memory device being used to securing a host computer according to a process comprising the steps of:

applying power to the host computer;

determining whether a portable memory device is attached to a USB port on the host;

displaying an error message when it is determined that the portable memory device is not attached to the USB port of the host;

reading a password from the portable memory device and comparing the read password with a password stored in the host;

displaying an error message when the password on the portable memory device does not match the password stored in the host and preventing the host from being booted when the password on the portable memory device does not match the password stored in the host; and

booting up the host computer only when the portable memory device is attached to the USB port of the host and only when the password stored in the portable memory device matches the password stored in the host computer.